

**PrendergastLibrary**  
Focusing on Your Future.

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020

JAMES  
PRENDERGAST  
FREE  
LIBRARY

509 Cherry Street

Jamestown, NY 14701

716-484-7135

[www.prendergastlibrary.org](http://www.prendergastlibrary.org)



# To Our Community

To say 2020 was a challenging year is an understatement at best! It has been the only time in the library's history that we had to close our doors for anything besides holidays. What a difference a year makes!

I am incredibly proud of the innovation and resilience demonstrated by the Prendergast Library staff and our community during the pandemic. We all pulled together! We immediately increased access to digital resources through Overdrive and began offering virtual programs. Our storytime and STEAM programs gave children and families a feeling of safety, comfort, and routine during a scary time. We gained 1000 new social media followers in 2020, and 485 people signed up for a library card. Circulation of e-Materials increased by 17 percent.

We reopened our doors to the public in July. Reopening the library's physical building has been invaluable, especially to our patrons facing difficult situations due to financial, housing, employment, and medical insecurity. The staff has made all this happen by gaining knowledge, acquiring new communication and media technologies skills, learning and developing public health metrics and protocols, and understanding our community's needs.

Library staff has developed creative and innovative services that will remain when we are on the other side of things, including webinars on library services, take and make kits, virtual storytimes, "Storytimes in Our Community" outreach, summer lunch service in partnership with the Jamestown YMCA and the circulation of STEM materials.

There is still much uncertainty that lies ahead, but I am confident that the future will be a time not just to restore and "get back to normal." It will also be a time for the Prendergast Library to improve and even reimagine some of our services. My sincere wish is that everyone has a healthy and happy year.

I look forward to greeting all of you in person. Our patrons are our inspiration. Thank you for keeping us motivated and excited! It is my honor and privilege to work for the Prendergast Library and the community,

With sincere gratitude,  
Anne Greene  
Executive Director  
James Prendergast Library



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# An Unprecedented Year!

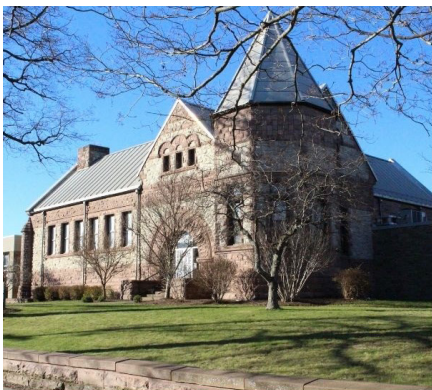
As we write this today, the children's room is filled with kids and caregivers listening to storytime. A big purple tent is set up on the library's front lawn, waiting for guests to participate in an all-ages craft, and the Jamestown Public Market staff is unloading boxes of local strawberries and kale to sell at the Mobile Market. Wow, what a difference a year makes.

It is a day like today: sun shining, people out and about, and children laughing that we all dreamed about last year. During the pandemic the library team worked from home, producing virtual programs, ordering digital materials to enhance the online collections, developing easy ways to use online

library cards, and preparing to open the building safely.

On July 1, 2020, the library doors reopened. Our first patron was here at 10:05 am and was thrilled to get her books and use the computer. Since that day, we have welcomed thousands of people back into the library. Of course, there were new rules to follow and lots of cleaning to maintain, but we did it!

Thank you to the community for tuning in when we were closed, driving up (during curbside), and dropping by when we opened again. It is because of you that we survived this unprecedented year!



**We're Open!**  
JULY 1ST

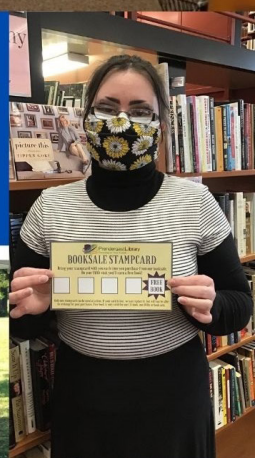
**NEW POLICIES:**

1. Masks are required for all staff and patrons
2. Children under 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
3. Social distancing will be enforced. We may have to limit entry of patrons if we exceed occupancy limit



Today at Your Library

**JAMESTOWN MOBILE MARKET  
& YMCA GRAB-N-GO MEALS**



**Storytime Live from City Hall**  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 AT 10:30 AM  
FACEBOOK LIVE



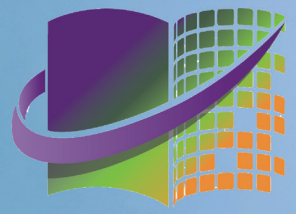
Prendergast Library Facebook Live

**Hora de Cuentos Bilingüe  
Bilingual Storytime**

Todos los Viernes a las 10:30  
Every Friday at 10:30







**PrendergastLibrary**

Focusing on Your Future.



# **James Prendergast Library Strategic Plan 2021-2024**

We are excited to present the James Prendergast Library's new strategic plan.

This strategic plan sets a course and a promise to provide services that focus on you, your family, and the community. Thanks to sustainable local funding, the library team can now work to bring this plan to life, and we can't wait to see all that can be accomplished.

## **Mission**

Responsibly empowering  
lifelong learning for the  
residents of the  
City of Jamestown

James Prendergast Library  
509 Cherry Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
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716-484-7135



# Focus, Goals, Investments

The planning process included a review of our mission and core values. We gathered community input and data in order to develop our focus, goals and investments.

## A Focused Mission

Develop a new program plan that meets community needs, reaches new audiences, and brings the collection to life.

Create a collection management team to ensure the collection meets the community's needs.

Invest in new technology and equipment that enhances library services for our community.

Implement organized approaches to staff development to deliver service effectively.

## Community Engagement

Improve community connections by collaborating with local organizations and developing a volunteer program.

Utilize all media platforms to communicate library services, and celebrate its history and continuing role in our community.

## Sustainability

Improve the library's natural and physical space to enhance use and ensure inclusiveness of services.

Develop a fundraising plan that speaks to the community about their library's value and contributes to its ongoing financial sustainability.

## Values

### Equity

We are an inclusive and equitable organization that promotes equity of access in our community and serves the diverse needs and requirements of our users.

### Community

We align our services and programs with the needs of the community.

### Creativity

We embrace a culture of exploration, experimentation, and reflection to improve services, anticipate needs, and manage change.

### Sustainability

We invest in economic feasibility, environmental stewardship, and social justice, to inspire investment and build support for the future.

### Collaboration

We build partnerships to achieve shared goals and increase the impact of our mission.



# Summer Reading

## IMAGINE YOUR STORY

This year was undoubtedly all about imagining, most importantly reimagining possibilities. The library was determined to run the annual Summer Reading Program. We knew it had to operate differently, and we were up for the challenge.

### Partnered with the YMCA

In early Spring of 2020, the Jamestown YMCA reached out to the library to see if we would be a partner site for their Summer "Grab-N-Go" meal service. We said, "of course!" The library was the busiest location for meal pickup in the city, with staff handing out over 14,000 meals!

### Created Virtual Programs

We connected with you through daily virtual programs, incorporating literacy, STEAM, history, and library service tutorials.



### We love the YMCA!

Community collaboration was how we made things happen.



### Storytime goes Virtual

50 virtual stories, 50 ways to reach out.



### A Magical Summer

We all needed a little magic last year.





# 123 Readers 26,525 Minutes

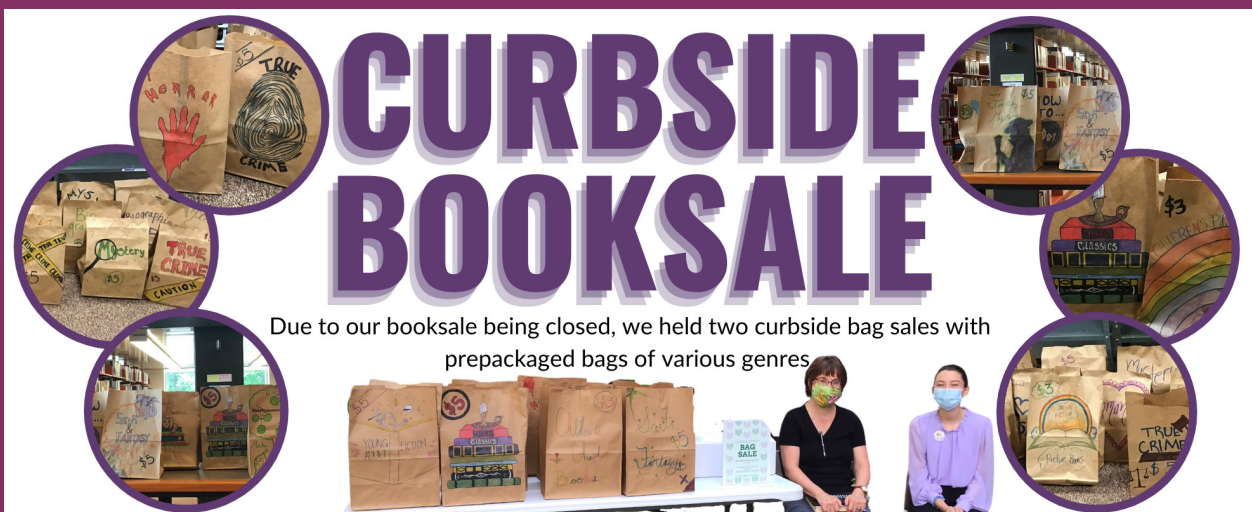
## Give Big CHQ: A kickoff for the Summer Reading Challenge

The library participated in Give Big CHQ and raised money to support the 2020 Summer Reading Challenge.

We raised over \$3000 from our community. Our goal and focus was to support local businesses during the pandemic and encourage participants to eat, shop, and play locally.


Summer reading prizes included gift certificates to local shops, restaurants, and attractions, many of which closed during the pandemic and were getting back on their feet.

We also purchased farm market bucks to distribute to all summer reading participants. They could use these at the Jamestown Public Market.



# CURBSIDE BOOKSALE

Due to our booksale being closed, we held two curbside bag sales with prepackaged bags of various genres

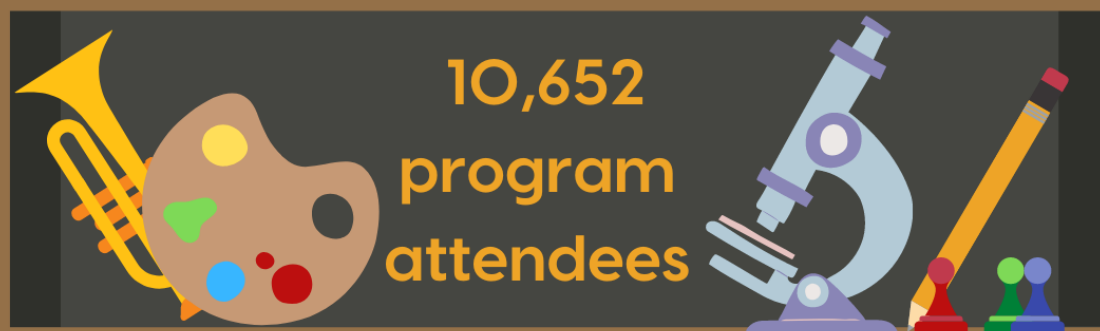
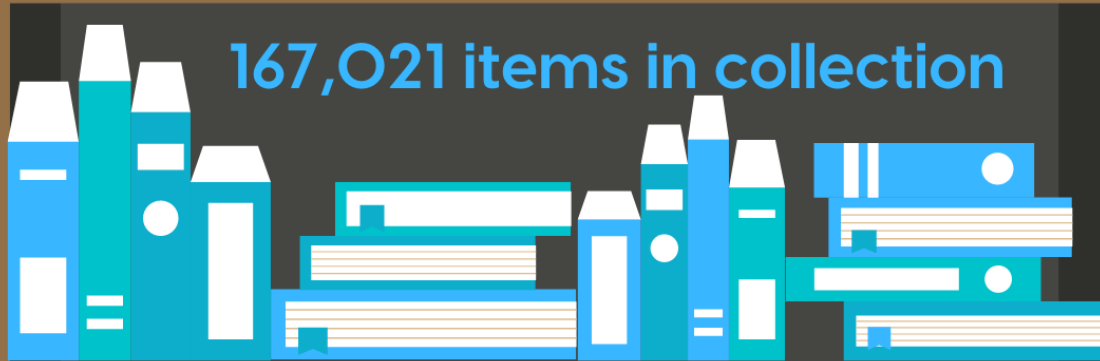


**7/10-11  
&  
9/10-11**

20-40 bags were designed and filled with books handpicked by staff. Both sales were huge successes and we received a lot of positive feedback from our patrons.



# Our Year in





# Numbers

24, 826  
reference  
questions

355  
PROGRAM  
RECORDINGS

211,873 website visits



2,526  
wireless  
sessions

8,845  
computer uses

1000+ NEW  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
FOLLOWERS





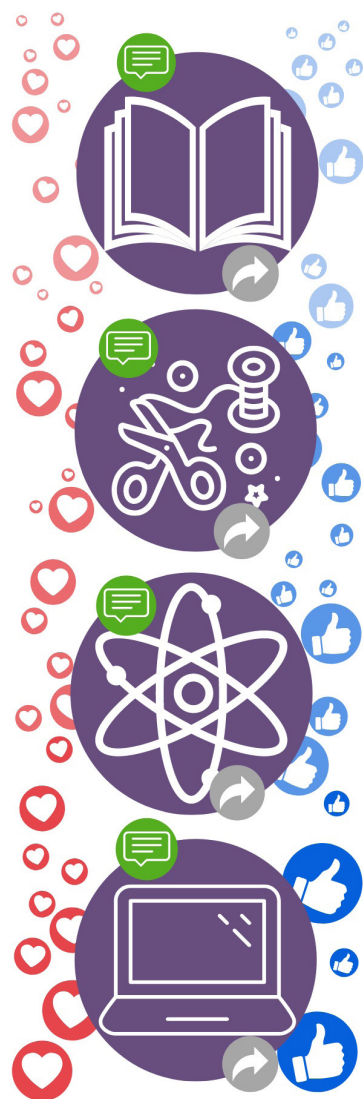


# We went virtual

So much changed in 2020, the one thing that remained constant was the dedication of library staff to providing the best service possible to our community members. We worked together to create new virtual programs. Many of us had never been in front of the camera before. It took a bit of courage and creativity but we did it!

The most important thing we could do was connect our community and provide support to students, parents, and caregivers who were figuring out distance learning.

**Thank you for tuning in!**



## Getting Creative!

Storytime in Our Community sessions on location at places such as The Fenton History Center, Audubon, City Hall, Jamestown Fire Department, The Reg Lenna, and more.

STEAM learning videos, exploring everything from properties of light to how the human body works.

Library Resource tutorials where you could learn how to use Libby, explore Ancestry for genealogy research, search the catalog, and access online databases.

History of Your Library videos telling the stories of the people and places that made the Prendergast Library a reality.

Virtual Storytimes where we got to touch base with you each week, read stories and check in.

# Programs

In 2020 we had to try new things. So public libraries came up with innovative ways to get library materials in the hands of patrons.

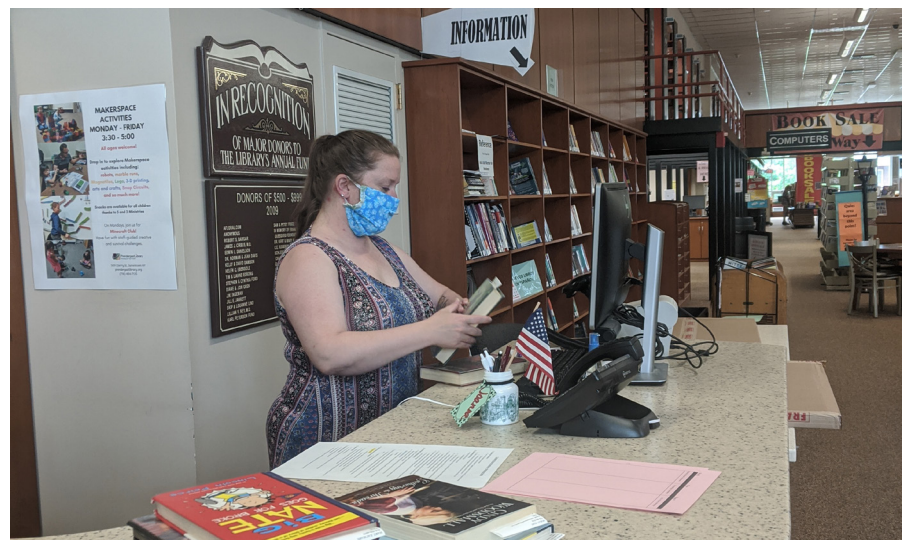
#curbsideservice  
#digitallibrarycard  
#virtualtutorials

Curbside Service - a new way to do business!

We quickly got the hang of it; from June 3-July 1, when we reopened to the public, 225 people utilized the curbside service. It was nice to see their masked smiles on the other side of the door!

# Top Checkouts & New Procedures

2020 was a record breaking year for digital checkouts, **25,797** to be exact! When we closed in March, digital library cards became a lifeline for many people.

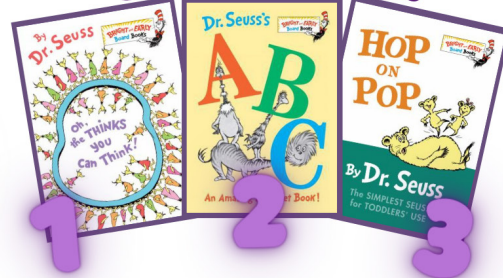


## Top Checkouts

### Adult Books



### Children's Books



### Adult DVDs





# Databases & Resources

## Ancestry

2158 Sessions  
At-home access began  
March 2020



## HeritageQuest

3484 Sessions



## NYT Online

873 Sessions On-Site  
Up 19.5% from 2019

441 Sessions Off-Site  
Up 56% from 2019



## Rosetta Stone

3819 Minutes Used

54 Active Users  
Up 285% from 2019

## Murray L. Bob Lecture



**CAUSE FOR REJOICING:**

100+ YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

NOVEMBER 12, 2020 • 42 ATTENDEES

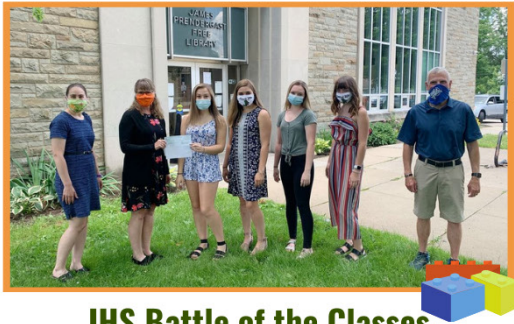
# Thank You Voters!

On June 16, 2020, Jamestown voters approved a \$350,000 yearly tax to provide sustainable funding to the library for generations to come. The tax funding accounts for over 30% of the annual budget.





# Grants

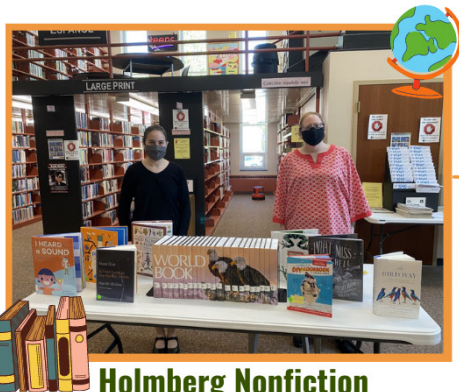


## **JHS Battle of the Classes**

Jamestown High School students donated \$2,400 to the library! This money was raised through the annual Battle of the Classes event and went toward the library's Makerspace.

## **Carnahan Jackson & Lenna Foundations**

Grants from the Carnahan Jackson and Lenna Foundations provided matching funds for construction, which included replacing old windows in the library with new, energy efficient windows.



## **Holmberg Nonfiction**

A grant from the Holmberg foundation updated the library's nonfiction collection. Pictured are a few of the titles purchased with the grant.

## **Sheldon Foundation**

Funding from the Sheldon Foundation provided operational support for the 2020 year.

## **Chautauqua Cattaraugus Library System**

Our Take N Makes for Summer 2020 were made possible through grant funding from CCLS.



## **Cummins Summer Reading**

Funding from Cummins supported our 2020 Summer Reading Challenge.

## **Jesse Smith Darrah Fund**

The Jesse Smith Darrah Fund provided funding for our Ebook collection.



## **CRCF Science Kits**

A grant from the Chautauqua Regional Community Foundation funded our circulating Library Science Kits.

## Memorials

We received 77 memorial donations totaling \$4,190

## Donors

We had 472 donors give \$53,264.97

# 2020 BUDGET

REVENUE		
40.2%	ENDOWMENT	\$331,174
19.0%	GRANTS	\$156,239
12.1%	CITY OF JAMESTOWN	\$100,000
12.1%	FUNDRAISING	\$100,000
1.4%	STATE	\$11,250
6.7%	CCLS REIMBURSEMENT	\$56,000
3.2%	LIBRARY FEES	\$26,050
3.1%	LEGACIES	\$25,244
0.6%	LOCAL COLLEGE	\$5,000
1.6%	COUNTY	\$13,400
TOTAL		\$824,357

EXPENSES		
50.3%	SALARIES	\$414,789
16.1%	BENEFITS & RETIREMENT	\$132,985
10.9%	LIBRARY OPERATIONS	\$89,506
10.9%	MATERIALS	\$90,000
0.2%	PROGRAMMING	\$2,000
5.5%	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$45,707
3.1%	LEGAL/ PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$25,150
1.1%	FUNDRAISING COSTS	\$9,000
0.2%	IT	\$1,680
0.2%	TRAINING/ CONTINUING ED.	\$2,000
1.4%	OUTREACH/ PUBLICITY	\$11,540
TOTAL		\$824,357



# About us

The James Prendergast Library opened in 1891. The library building and collection was a gift to the citizens of Jamestown from Alex and Mary Prendergast in honor of their son, James Prendergast. 129 years later, the James Prendergast Library is still serving the community.

## Board of Directors

**Joni Blackman - President**  
**Lynn Warner- Vice President**  
**Micki McCray - Secretary**  
**Michael A. Corey - Treasurer**  
**Lori Fabritius - Asst. Treasurer/  
Secretary**  
**Ned Lindstrom**  
**Dan Hickman**  
**Cassie Blakeslee**  
**Frank Corapi**  
**Maggie Scorse**  
**Mary Zdrojewski**

In 2020, the library operated with a team of 18 people. The staff is cross-trained to quickly move from helping a patron in the Children's Room to assisting with a question at the Reference Desk. Cross-training has enabled the library's staff to become a more effective team.

On a typical day out in the library, the staff shelve returned materials, keep the library clean, assist patrons checking out items, search for new

materials, and use public computers.

Behind the scenes, staff plan programs and outreach events, coordinate with community organizations to bring library activities out and about in Jamestown, and order and process new materials.

Every day is a busy day at the Prendergast Library!



# James Prendergast Library

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## Hours

Monday - Friday  
9:00-7:00

Saturday  
10:00-4:00

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